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The National Republican

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1884.

The house on Wednesday defeated by a vote of 152 to 88 an amendment to the military appropriation bill authorizing the president to call out citizens from appointments as second lieutenants.

SECRETARY FREDERICK HUNTER'S analysis of the proposed treaty with Spain, which we publish this morning, will give our readers, in compact form, the leading features of the measure.

APPLICATIONS for office are pouring in upon democratic congressmen at the rate of 4,000 a day. Think of the embarrassment to the democratic party if ever one's mail in our city postoffice was destroyed by fire.

AMUSEMENTS.

A COMMUNICATION from Admiral Ammen touching the cost and probable consequences of the Nicaragua canal, which we publish to-day, will be found decidedly interesting, in view of the pendency of the treaty granting this country the right to build the canal.

The report that the subcommittee on elections of the house had decided to report in the McLean-Broadhead contest adversely to Dr. McLean is a little precious. The committee has not yet heard the case, the hearing set for yesterday being adjourned until to-day.

The republicans have taken the initiative in pension matters at this session, having resolved at their congressional banquets to heartily support the bill known as the Mexican pension bill, as amended by the senate. Now let the democrats fight it out.

This session may not be long enough to give due consideration to the question of a still further general reduction in the rates of letter postage. But there is plenty of time to do two things. First, increase the maximum weight allowed for the single-rate letter to one ounce. Second, reduce the rate of postage on local letters to one cent where the carrier system is in operation. The country demands these changes immediately, and the postal revenue warrants the change.

It appears possible that Mr. Bayard's effort to President Cleveland did not possess the significance assigned to it by politicians and the press. Invitations to similar conferences, it is stated, have been sent to representative democrats from all parts of the country. Among those so honored are men like Thurman, McDonald, Vorhees, Gen. Gordon, Senator Farley, Gen. Viles, and Gov. Crittenden, of Missouri. It is with pain that we have failed to observe any mention of an invitation to Schurz, Curtis, Bresler, or any other shining lights of the late independent annex to the democratic party. Can it be that after all the independents are to be frozen out?

Republicans and Independents.

The limits to which a party can justifiably exact support from its members for its nominees is receiving considerable attention just now in the republican party of New York. The late election was marked by extraordinary temporary revolts in both parties. A considerable number of republicans, following the lead of certain men who pretended to be unable to support Mr. Blaine, undoubtedly defeated the republican party, and yet professed to be republicans so far as their principles went. They still claim to be republicans and assert their right to take part in the deliberations of the party and to be counted as components of republican organizations upon a footing of equal right with their old comrades who faithfully stood by the candidates of their party and went down in its defeat.

Several organizations in New York city and Brooklyn have had before them the question of what constitutes a republican. A definition of this point has been forced by the necessity of defining the status of the independents who defeated the nominees of the republican party for president, but still claim to be republicans. The result has been that the different clubs and committees have come to the same conclusion, viz.: that voters who cast their ballots for Blaine and Logan are to be considered republicans in good standing, and voters who cast their ballots for other candidates are not to be considered republicans.

The King's County central committee has just expelled Messrs. Packard and F. C. T., two of its members, who refused to support Blaine in the late campaign. M. C. Ward, it appears, did not vote for Cleveland, simply abstaining from voting for presidential electors. His vote for the committee's statement of his action and present position, saying, among other things:

"democratic candidates and defeat the republican candidates, and in doing that they defeated not only the men whom they held to be objectionable, but also turned out of power the party whose principles they professed to believe in and adhere to. It is not the fault of the republican party that it now finds itself obliged to class Mr. Packard and those in his position with open and avowed democrats."

It is not at all likely that the republican party will refuse the help of Mr. Packard or any other independent in future elections, for a party that would reject recruits would be simply digging its own grave, but it is quite certain that it will insist that they shall come to its ranks, purely as recruits from another party, and that their standing in the party as republicans shall be determined by the measure of earnest work they shall do for the advancement of the fortunes of the republicans party.

It looks now as though some action would be taken by congress at this session upon the subject of a new postoffice building for this city. It has been ascertained that the postoffice is staying in its present quarters on borrowed time, the lease having expired, and the committees on public buildings and grounds of both the senate and house are interesting themselves in the matter. If ever a case were on its merits this one should, but there should be no relaxation of efforts on the part of citizens of Washington in pressing for immediate action.

AMUSEMENTS.

It was thought best by the management to close Ford's opera house last night in consequence of the illness of the bright little actress, her many friends will be glad to hear, has recovered, and will resume her part in "My Sweetheart" this evening.

"Up Van Winkle" loaded, tipped, and prepared to the accustomed delight of a large audience at the National last night and will continue his satiric, charming course during the remainder of the week.

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